

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 13861 211133Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----123986 211135Z /15
O 211106Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8546
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 13861

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, LY
SUBJECT: SADAT ON POSSIBLE EASING OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN
TENSIONS

1. IN CONNECTION WITH A GENERAL TALK ON LIBYA, AUGUST 20, SADAT TOLD ME THAT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN TENSIONS MAY BE EASING A BIT. SOME TEN DAYS AGO OR SO QADHAFI HAD SENT ONE OF HIS SENIOR MILITARY PEOPLE TO EGYPT TO CONDUCT TALKS WITH GAMASY ON A MILITARY STAND-DOWN BY BOTH SIDES. QADHAFI HAD REALIZED THAT LIBYANS HAD BEEN BADLY BEATEN AND THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DO SO. SADAT EITHER DID NOT KNOW THE NAME OF THE LIBYAN OFFICER OR DID NOT WANT TO IDENTIFY HIM BY NAME, BUT DESCRIBED HIM AS COMMANDER OF THE COMMANDO AND AIRBORN FORCES IN LIBYA AND ONE OF THE ORIGINAL LIBYAN RCC OFFICERS.

2. LIBYAN OFFICER, SADAT RECOUNTED, HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH GAMASY, GENERAL OUTLINES OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS: "ALL LIBYAN TROOPS" NOW IN BORDER AREAS WILL BE WITHDRAWN TO TOBRUK. THERE WILL BE NO LIBYAN MILITARY FORCES BETWEEN TOBRUK AND THE BORDER EXCEPT SMALL FRONTIER POLICE UNITS AND A SMALL (SIZE NOT SPECIFIED) LIBYAN MILITARY UNIT AT MUSAID. ON THEIR

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PART, EGYPTIANS HAD AGREED TO PULL BACK MAIN EGYPTIAN FORCES FROM BORDER AREAS TO SIDI BARRANI. A SMALL (SIZE NOT SPECIFIED) EGYPTIAN FORCE WILL REMAIN IN SOLLUM.

3. AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO SADAT, IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOTH CHIEFS OF STATE. IT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO QADHAFI.

IF QADHAFI ACCEPTS IT, AND SADAT THOUGHT HE WOULD, SADAT
WILL ALSO DO SO. IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING AND TIME-TABLE
CAN THEREAFTER BE WORKED OUT.

4. IN RELATING ABOVE, SADAT SAID HE HAD ORDERED GAMASY
BE AS "FLEXIBLE" AS POSSIBLE VIS-A-VIS LIBYAN ARMED
FORCES. HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE TO LIBYAN ARMED FORCES
THAT EGYPT HARBORS NO HOSTILITY TOWARD THEM. IT IS
QADHAFI, NOT THE LIBYAN ARMED FORCES, WHO IS THE MISCREANT.
SADAT APPEARED PLEASED THAT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN TENSIONS
OFFER SIGNS OF ABATING, AT LEAST FOR NOW. BUT HE MADE
IT CLEAR HIS VIEWS TOWARD QADHAFI HAVE NOT ALTERED.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO13861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0110
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770840/aaaabhfg.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ab08457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1537131
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT ON POSSIBLE EASING OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN TENSIONS
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, EG, LY, (GAMASY, MOHAMED ABDEL GHANI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ab08457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009